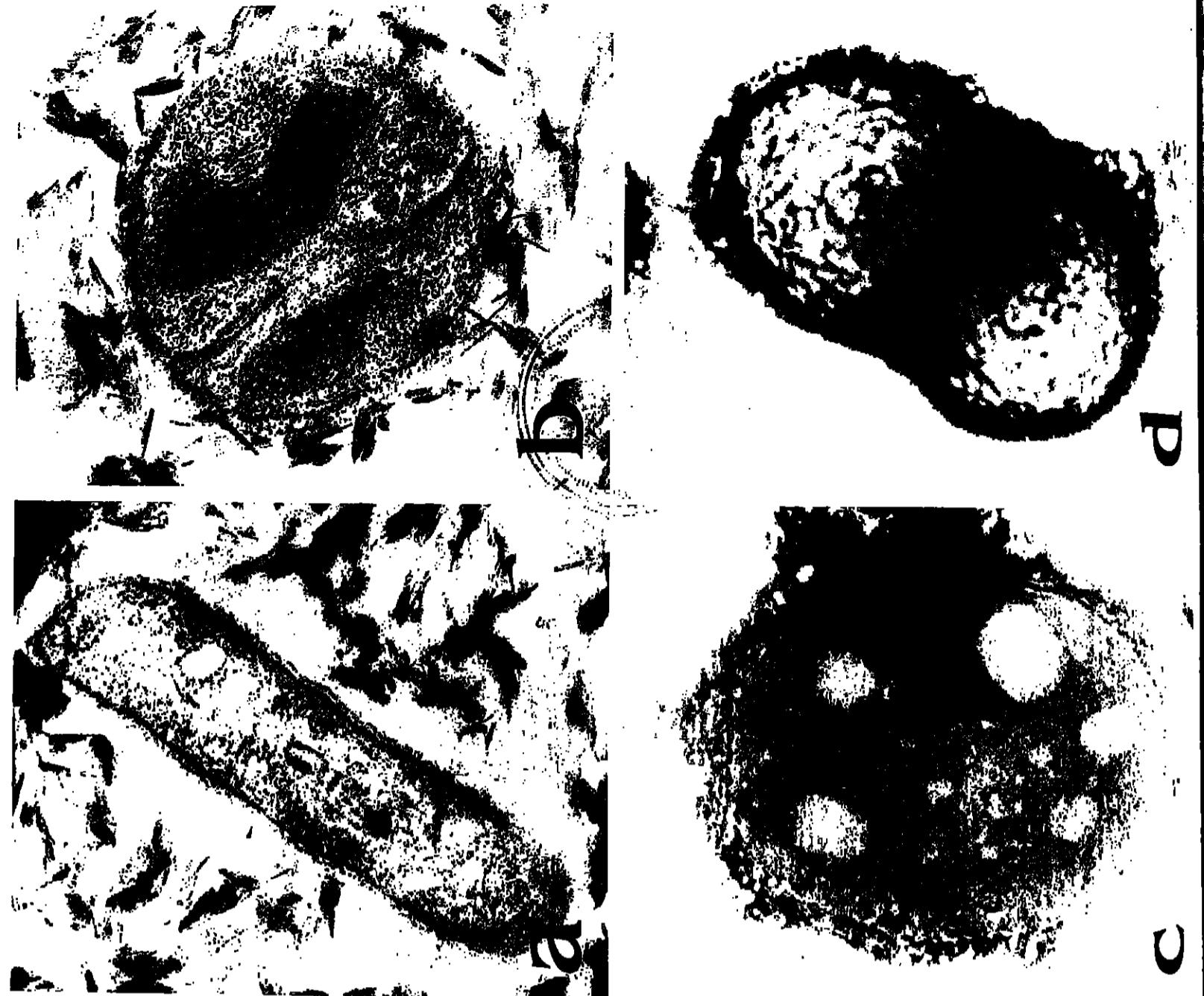


# EOS

Transactions, American Geophysical Union  
Vol. 64 No. 33 August 16, 1983



EOS, Transactions, American Geophysical Union

Vol. 64, No. 33, Pages 505-512

August 16, 1983

## Meetings (cont. from p. 511)

### The Response of the Upper Ocean to Very Strong Wind Forcing (O)

This session will focus on the physical mechanisms that govern the upper ocean's response to discrete, severe storms. Papers are invited that will illuminate these mechanisms with recent results (and opinions) based on observation, theory, or numerical models. Of particular interest is the question of how large the current gradient will be in a uniform mixed layer in response to large wind stresses. Other topics of interest include mixed layer dynamics and effects of topography and dissipation. For more information contact session chairman R. L. Gordon, Exxon Production Research Company, P.O. Box 2189, Houston, TX 77001. In addition, send the original and two copies of the abstract by September 14 to AGU Fall Meeting, 2000 Florida Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

### Deep Fault Zone Drilling (T)

See description at the beginning of the Meetings section of this issue of *EOS*.

### Exhibits

The exhibit will be located on the mezzanine, Cathedral Hill Hotel, Monday, December 5, through Thursday, December 8, 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Exhibitors confirmed to date are:

Academic Press, Inc.  
American Geophysical Union  
EG&G Geometrics  
Elsevier Science Publishing Co.  
Defense Mapping Agency/HITC  
Handar

Kinematics  
Qualimetrics, Inc.—WEATHERtronics  
Schonstedt Instrument Co.  
Sprengnether Instruments  
Springer-Verlag, New York  
Teledyne Geotech

### Social Events

An icebreaker party on Monday evening at the Cathedral Hill Hotel will be the opening social event of the meeting. There will be an awards ceremony on Thursday evening from 5:45 to 6:30 P.M. in the Crystal Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway. All meet-

ing participants are invited to attend. At a wine-tasting reception following the ceremony you can share a glass of wine with your colleagues.

Complimentary refreshments will be served daily at both hotels 9:30–10:30 A.M. and 2:45–3:45 P.M.

### Business Meetings and Section Luncheons/Dinner

The AGU Council will meet Tuesday, December 6, at 5:30 P.M.

The section luncheons and dinner will be held at the following restaurants: Nikko, at Van Ness and Pine; Casa de Cristal, 1122 Post Street; A. Sabel's, on Fisherman's Wharf; and the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway.

### Planetary/Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology

Tuesday, December 6, 12 P.M., Casa de Cristal, \$9.

### Seismology/Tectonophysics

Tuesday, December 6, 12 P.M., Nikko, \$5.

### Geomagnetism and Paleomagnetism

Wednesday, December 7, 12 P.M., Casa de Cristal, \$5.

### Hydrology

Wednesday, December 7, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

### Solar-Planetary Relationships

Wednesday, December 7, 6 P.M., A. Sabel's, \$20.

### Atmospheric Sciences

Thursday, December 8, 12 P.M., Nikko, \$9.

### Geodesy

Thursday, December 8, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

### Field Trip

On Sunday, December 4, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. in connection with the Nano-Plate-Tectonic Symposium, there will be a field trip to the

Franciscan nano-terrane in San Francisco, stressing their contact relations. The trip will be led by Clark Blake and Clyde Wahrhaftig. The \$25 per person cost includes tour bus, lunch, and field trip guide.

The trip will leave from and return to the Cathedral Hill Hotel.

The trip will be limited to 40 persons, and space will be reserved for the first 40 to sign up. Others can be put on a waiting list, or their checks can be returned, as they wish. Those interested should send the form printed in this issue with a check made out to C. Blake, Jr., addressed as indicated on the form. Be sure to mark on outside of the envelope "For AGU Dec. Field Trip."

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Thursday, December 8, 12 P.M., Nikko, \$9.

Friday, December 9, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

Saturday, December 10, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

Sunday, December 11, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

Monday, December 12, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

Tuesday, December 13, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

Wednesday, December 14, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

Thursday, December 15, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

Friday, December 16, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

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Tuesday, December 27, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

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Thursday, December 29, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

Friday, December 30, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

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Wednesday, February 29, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

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Wednesday, March 7, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

Thursday, March 8, 12 P.M., Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, \$9.

## Article (cont. from p. 512)

land (115 km southwest) until August 30. Ten days later, from September 6 to 8, a ship 5321-6076 km to the west received a thin dusting of fine ash. By the morning of August 28, however, when daylight returned to the Sunda Straits, two thirds of the island of Krakatau had disappeared, leaving a spectacular, 800-m-high cliff displaying a natural cross-section of the volcano. To the north lay several new islands and banks of steaming tephra where the sea had been 36 m deep. Passing sailors described small, secondary explosions, "similar to the blowing of a whale," these hot tephra banks interacted with cold seawater.

The impact of the 1883 Krakatau eruption was unquestionably great in the nearby areas of Java and Sumatra, but, perhaps of even greater importance, the effects were felt around the globe:

• Every recording barograph in the world documented the passage of the major airwave, some as many as seven times as the wave bounced back and forth between the eruption site and its antipodes (located near Bogota, Colombia) for 5 days after the explosion.

• Tide gauges recorded the principal seawave's passage far from Krakatau. The wave reached Aden, a distance of 7000 km, in 12 hours, and air-to-sea coupling of the airwave produced sea-level disturbances as far away as San Francisco and the English Channel.

• Blue and green suns were observed as fine ash and aerosols that erupted perhaps 50 km into the stratosphere and circled the equator in 15 days.

• Three months after the eruption these products had spread to higher latitudes, causing such vivid red sunset afterglows that fire engines were called out in New York City; Poughkeepsie, New York; and New Haven, Connecticut, to quench the apparent conflagration in the western skies. Unusual sunsets persisted for 3 years.

• The volcanic dust veil that created such spectacular atmospheric effects also acted as a solar radiation filter, lowering global temperatures as much as 0.9°C in the year after the eruption and not returning to normal until 1888. Locally, temperatures dropped 7°C in the darkness of noon on August 27.

• Rafts of floating pumice, locally thick enough to support men, trees, and no doubt other inadvertent biologic passengers, crossed the Indian Ocean in 10 months at speeds of 22-25 km per day.

The distant observations, combined with widespread reports about the eruption itself, stimulated multidisciplinary interest in Krakatau through intellectual feedback and cross-fertilization and the realization that geologists, hydrologists, meteorologists, and artist observers of the evening sky all contribute to an understanding of such a huge geological event. No doubt the disastrous loss of so many lives helped to capture the attention of the public, but we believe that Krakatau's fame comes mainly from the fact that its distant effects were observed by such a large part of the world's population—at a time when rapid communication via newly employed telegraph cables and publication of news made people aware of the connection between the eruption and their own observation of its effects.

Thus, the fame of the Krakatau eruption rests on firm foundations, and its importance to science has been undeniably great. It greatly advanced our geologic understanding of calderas. These large, circular depressions (such as Crater Lake, Oregon) are well known in volcanic regions, but in 1883 they were only just being named. Verbeek, the Dutch mining engineer studying Krakatau immediately after the eruption, correctly deduced that the missing portion of the island had collapsed into the subsurface void left by the eruption of huge volumes of pumice. Alternative explanations, such as the forceful blasting out of the missing portion of Krakatau, have not been supported, and Krakatau remains a type example of caldera collapse.

Klessing called the eruption a "turning point" in history for the science of meteorology" for its contribution to understanding of stratospheric circulation patterns, optical effects (and climatic impact) of fine particles at high altitudes, and propagation of explosive waves through the atmosphere.

Oceanographers have learned from the giant seaways, and biologists have extensively studied the rapid return of life to these islands covered in 1883 with 30-100 m of hot pumice and ash.

The principal importance of Krakatau, however, is that it was a large, natural event with extraordinary impact on the solid earth, the atmosphere, and the oceans. This impact came at a time of great growth in science, technology, and communication, resulting in swift attention to this important event. The world quickly learned that the impacts of large geophysical events are global, and that they demonstrate the interdependence of land, sea, and air. Krakatau 1883 remains today a classic geophysical event with much yet to teach us about our world.

## Forum

## Committees Active Against Creationism

In 1981 in Federal District Court, Judge William R. Overton held that the Arkansas law mandating equal time for the teaching of "scientific creationism" in the state's public schools was unconstitutional. The Overton decision was the latest in a series of legislative and judicial setbacks suffered by fundamentalists who advocate the introduction of creationism into schools, libraries, museums, and other public institutions.

But rather than giving up the ghost, creationists are now switching their campaign into a series of local confrontations. In California the teaching of creationism in San Jose high schools is defended while the use of an evolution-oriented high school biology text is attacked. In Iowa an ambitious effort to introduce shoddy creationist paperbacks into the schools of 60 communities has just bogged down. In Michigan an exhibit on plant development in a modest, country-run museum is characterized as "blasphemous" because of the exhibit's evolutionary tone. So it goes across the United States and Canada.

The Committee of Correspondence (C/C), headquartered in Iowa, are a continent-wide communications network working at grassroots levels to defend the teaching of evolution from such creationist incursions. Founded in December 1980, the C/C's now encompass 55 committees in 48 states and 4 Canadian provinces. While each committee is independent and autonomous, the various C/C's cooperate with each other and with societies such as AAAS, American Geological Institute, Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, and other scientific and educational groups. Membership of the C/C's comprises scientists, nonscientists, and lay people.

The rationale of the C/C movement is that the creation/evolution controversy is not intellectual, scientific, or religious; it is basically a dispute over public policy. In the United States and Canada such dis-

penses typically are resolved in local communities at the grassroots level. This is where the creationists operate, where they are effective, and where the C/C's do operate. In this arena such formal procedures as passing resolutions are futile. Instead, both creationists and evolutionists stress the direct and active involvement of concerned individuals.

Methods used include generating publicity by publishing various materials, using TV programs, and calling radio talk shows; appearing before clubs, church groups, public meetings, PTAs, and other community organizations; and testifying before school boards and legislative committees. Such activities have long been used to good effect by all kinds of special interest groups. The C/C's have found them productive in blocking creationist initiatives to such a degree that creationist speakers and publications now regularly denounce the C/C's and complain of our successes.

Members of AGU are invited to join in the C/C defense of evolution. Whether you join a committee or not, you may want to subscribe to *Alma to C/C*, the newsletter of the C/C national office. The *Alma* comes out five to nine times a year with current news items from both sides of the creation/evolution controversy; it costs \$5 per year for C/C members, \$8 for nonmembers, payable to Committee of Correspondence.

To join the C/C active in your state or province, or to subscribe to *Alma to C/C*, send your name, affiliation (or profession or occupation), work and home address, and work and home phone numbers to Committees of Correspondence, 156 East Alta Vista, Ottumwa, IA 52501.

Stan Weinberg  
President  
National Committee of Correspondence

## Radiance Imaging and Rainfall

Upwelling radiation from the earth's surface has been found to be a successful indicator of the rate of rainfall, according to new analyses of data obtained by the Nimbus 7 and Seasat satellites. In a recent report describing the functions of the Scanning Multichannel Microwave Radiometer (SMMR) on these satellites, R. W. Spencer, D. W. Marin, B. B. Hinton, and J. A. Weltman of the Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin demonstrated that microwave emissions at the frequencies 37, 21, 18, 10.7, and 6.0 GHz are sensitive to changes in the rain rate (*Nature*, July 14, 1983). The results are significant because satellite methods for the measurement of precipitation, which operate in the visible and infrared frequency ranges, infer precipitation from cloud observations.

The results of Spencer et al. are a comparison of SMMR U.S. data with rain rates derived from local weather radar observations. The comparison was done by digitizing radar plan position indicator photographs which are taken routinely by the U.S. National Weather Service. These rates and microwave brightness temperatures were entered in the University of Wisconsin Man-computer Interactive Data Access System. The output was displayed as television images and the radar brightness rain scale was contrasted with the SMMR images.

Microwave data at 37 GHz were found to be related to rain rates, linearly. This relationship was linear to rain rates up to at least 40 mm h<sup>-1</sup>. The lower brightness temperatures corresponded to the heavier rain rates. The rain rate, R, is related to microwave brightness temperature, T<sub>b</sub>, by

$$R = R_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i T_i$$

the result of regression analysis of the data.

In the stepwise multiple-linear regression procedure used in the analysis, the terms with negative coefficients are due to relations between the upwelling radiation from land and its attenuation by rain. Positive coefficient terms are due to background temper-

"Each of these impediments can alone seriously endanger the sensitive thread of communication that exists today between our scientific communities," Press said.

NAS has conducted a scientific exchange program with the Soviet Academy of Sciences for nearly a quarter of a century. "The current reduced level of the interacademy program represents an unsatisfactory state of affairs in the view of many members of the [NAS]," Press added.

New formal agreements with the Soviet Academy, Press testified, "must assure (1) approximate reciprocity on both sides, (2) selection of topics of significant interest to the two scientific communities, (3) inclusion of fields of science in which both countries are leaders, (4) establishment of the principle that each Academy can invite scientists from the other country and that they will be included in the exchange program, and (5) clear understanding that all participants are mutually agreed upon in advance. I suggest that only in this way can we recapture the quality, enthusiasm, and excitement that characterized the early years of interacademy cooperation."

William Schneider, Jr., under secretary of state for security assistance, science, and technology, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the current level of cooperative science and technology activity is roughly one-fifth that of 1979. He "does not foresee any early return to cooperation with the Soviet Union on a scale matching that of the mid-seventies [when 11 bilateral agreements were established], and certainly not until the political factors that led to reduction in cooperation improve."

George A. Keyworth II, science advisor to President Reagan and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), testified that the United States bases its cooperation with the Soviet Union in science and technology on three principles: maintaining a basic framework for scientific cooperation "so that, in the event that the political situation improves, we could expand and intensify beneficial exchanges with the USSR as expeditiously as possible"; to maintain those programs that clearly benefit the United States or "are of clear humanitarian importance"; and to keep a closer guard on science and technology that could have military applications.

Concerns that U.S.-Soviet cooperation could transfer technological expertise in security-sensitive areas have been voiced loudly in the past year. Last autumn an NAS panel concluded that although a substantial technology transfer does occur, open communication about federally funded research was not more than 50% possible; to maintain those programs that clearly benefit the United States or "are of clear humanitarian importance"; and to keep a closer guard on science and technology that could have military applications.

The study focused on the wastes generated by the reprocessing of uranium fuel used in commercial light-water reactors. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, this civilian waste is accumulating at a rate of approximately 1200 tonnes per year, with more than 8000 tonnes already in storage.

This waste is being packaged as concentrated salt solutions or salt cakes in steel tanks, or if the waste generates significant heat, in cooling pools.

Salt, tuff (volcanic ash rock), granite, and basalt were considered by the panel as candidates for the primary geologic storage medium.

Three U.S. bilateral science agreements with other countries that have received much recent attention are with India (*EOS*, April 26, p. 153), the People's Republic of China, and Brazil. In addition, the United States works closely with European countries in space science programs and with nations from all over the globe on ocean drilling.

More than a dozen government agencies administer cooperative projects with other nations. The National Science Foundation (NSF) alone administers some 400 science and technology cooperative projects with 30 countries. NSF's bilateral relationships with foreign countries increased twofold in the last 5 years, primarily through new ties with Western Europe, according to Richard J. Green, assistant director for scientific, technological, and international affairs at NSF.

In his testimony, Rep. Don Fuqua (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, asked whether the science attaches and counselors at U.S. embassies are fulfilling their potential and whether these U.S. officials are receiving the strong support of the State Department. Among the other questions raised by Fuqua are whether cost-sharing arrangements are included in international science projects; how such projects can aid Third World development; and what the value is of the annual report entitled *Science, Technology, and American Diplomacy*, the "Title V Report."

Clement J. Zablocki (D-Wisc.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed deep concern about the Reagan administration's proposal to eliminate the annual "Title V" report and to fold it into President Reagan's biannual report on science and technology to Congress. Some, including Fuqua, feel that the "Title V" report "provides not only a comprehensive review of science and diplomacy, but is also an incentive for the Department [of State] to bring together and review annually all of its activities in this area."

Under Secretary Schneider told the committee that a biannual report would be more comprehensive than a yearly report and would be put into the context of the OSTP report to Congress.—BTR

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vital proposals and adopted a comprehensive package of performance criteria of its own.

The panel rejected the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal that safety limits be based on "population dose" (sum of doses to all individuals in a specified group), citing uncertainties over numbers, location, and eating habits of populations in the future. Instead, the panel felt that individuals may be better protected from overexposure by setting safety limits that assure that "maximally exposed individuals" do not receive more than 10<sup>-3</sup> sieverts (Sv) per year of radiation from a radwaste site (1 Sv = 100 rem).

This dose is equivalent to about 10% of the radiation a person receives from the average gamma background.

In a significant departure from the proposed EPA standard of allowing a 10,000-year time limit for measuring the effectiveness of a storage site and its mechanisms, the panel took into consideration future radiation doses "for all times as long as potentially important doses were predicted to occur." The panel felt that the 10,000-year limit may lead to distorted evaluations of the safety and effectiveness of the components in the storage system.

In its analysis of repository design the panel also questioned the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's proposal that repositories be designed for easy retrieval of waste in the future. The panel felt that the technological uncertainties were too significant, the safety risks too great, and the costs too high for implementing this proposal. Instead, to reduce or eliminate second-guessing, the panel stressed the importance of carefully studying all components of the system before employing it.

The study focused on the wastes generated by the reprocessing of uranium fuel used in commercial light-water reactors. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, this civilian waste is accumulating at a rate of approximately 1200 tonnes per year, with more than 8000 tonnes already in storage.

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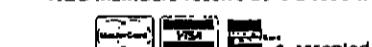
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Cover. Scenes of chaos and destruction produced by the 1883 eruptions of Krakatau. The photograph on the right, taken by a photographer named Hamburg on May 27, 1883, during the early and least destructive phase of the eruption, was brought to public light only this year. August 26-27 marks the 100th anniversary of the cataclysmic phase of the eruption, which remains one of the most renowned geological events in history. See article, p. 513.

This news item was contributed by Wilfred A. Elders, University of California, Riverside, CA 92321.

## New Editors' Addresses

Authors submitting manuscripts after October 1, 1983, to the Atmospheres or the Oceans sections of the *Journal of Geophysical Research* (JGR) or to the policy sciences portion of *Water Resources Research* (WRR) should send them to their new editors at the following addresses:

### JGR-Atmospheres



